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El Dorado County

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Supervisor, District III

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY
2010 NOV 15 AM 8:02

Date: November 15, 2010

To: Board of Supervisors

CC: CAO & Sheriff

RE: The 2011-12 Budget

There comes a time in any business (or government operation) when the decision must be made as to "why are we here and what must we do"?

In years to come, we will not be judged for the dollars budgeted but for the result of the expenditure of those dollars. We must look at what has been promised in past activities, and we must keep those promises!

My colleagues and I on this Board, along with the County staff, have agonized over the various proposed budget cuts. Almost all of the departments and most of the public that have addressed the Board on the Budget tell us not to cut their programs. Now, we must make a recommendation for the 2011/12 budget and the future!

Some departments cannot sustain the cuts proposed and accomplish the programs assigned to them. Two quick examples are the County Surveyor with GIS and Development Services with the General Plan update. Significant cuts to GIS will cause the shutdown of this system which is used countywide. With the General Plan implementation there is concern over compliance and fear of lawsuits.

Since 2003, we have given generously to the Sheriff's Department. We have already made some cuts; but the Sheriff's budget is still the biggest proportion of the General Fund. They have more high paid employees than the rest of the County. I know we must have good law enforcement, but we must cut somewhere!

Is it righteous to spend nearly \$300 per person for law enforcement and shut off the humanitarian and human interest programs? If there are no senior meals will the Sheriff need to make more welfare checks??

I move as follows with reference to the CAO's October 29, 2010 letter (10-0990 4C 16 Pages):

1.. LIBRARY only reduce by \$125,000 in recognition of the value of library services and the donations of time by multiple volunteers; [125,000]

2.. SENIOR NUTRITION No Reductions as these programs are life sustenance to many people; however, make every effort to find community support and increase donations from those who can afford to pay. [400,000]

3..SENIOR LEGAL No Reductions These programs keep some of our seniors out of the legal and criminal justice systems; doing away with this service would cause an increase in the District Attorney, Public Defender, and Sheriff's work load. Continue to make every effort to collect from those who can afford the service and those who have caused the problems by victimizing our seniors. [215,000]

4.. SENIOR DAY CARE No Reductions. This program helps those who are in dire need and who would otherwise probably be hospitalized; it allows their family some time without worry. [60,000]

5..GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION Make only 100,000 of the reduction in order to keep up with promises made and to avoid litigation. [100,000]

6.. GIS/ COUNTY SURVEYOR On November 9, 2010, the County Surveyor provided a budget plan that seems appropriate and should be given a chance to work; do not make the 400,000 GIS cut. This is a county wide service. [400,000]

7.. MUSUEM Do not make the 50,000 cut as it will cripple the museum. If we make further cuts in the museum budget, we may as well just close it! [50,000]

8.. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

This is a dollar multiplying program! We must not fail our youth! To close the 4H program would be a disaster in this county; imagine one of the great agriculture counties without a 4H program! Imagine telling the State we do not want their support for our youth or in creating healthier products and greater production! WOW! We cannot and must not cut these functions. NO REDUCTION! [150,000]

Total 1,500,000

9.. So, where do we get the money?? Since I have been back on the Board and even before then, the County was giving the Sheriff's office just about anything they wanted. The adopted 2010-11 budget shows the Sheriff with a total budget of 53.2 million for 185,000 population which is \$287.57 per capita and if we reduce by the amount shown by the CAO $1.9+1.4 = 3.3$ and this 1.5 it would leave 48.4 million or \$261.62 per capita; I believe the public would be able to survive at this rate or even lower.

To the current Sheriff, the incoming Sheriff, and the department employees, I apologize for this proposal. I know the department can achieve these cuts without compromising your high standards. The people of this county need your help.